

Division of Child Support Services

Term	Definition
Child Custody	<i>(As of January 1, 2013, in Arizona the term “child custody” was replaced with “legal decision-making.”)</i> <i>See Legal Decision-Making</i>
Legal Custody	<i>(As of January 1, 2013, in Arizona the term “legal custody” was replaced with “legal decision-making.”)</i> <i>See Legal Decision-Making</i>
Legal Decision-Making (LDM)	A parent who has the legal right and responsibility to make all non-emergency legal decisions regarding education, health care, religion, and personal care for the child
<i>Joint</i> Legal Decision-Making	Both parents share decision-making
<i>Sole</i> Legal Decision-Making	One parent has the legal right to make major decisions for the child without the other parent’s input
Parenting Time	A parent’s time with a child. (Absent contrary evidence which demonstrates it is not in a child’s best interest both parents should have frequent, substantial, meaningful and continuing parenting time with their child(ren).)
Parenting Plan	A Parenting Plan established specific parameters for legal decision-making and parenting time.
Visitation	(In Arizona) refers to non-parents time with a child